



# The Face Transplant

*R. Arundel*

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## **The Face Transplant** R. Arundel

Dr. Matthew MacAulay is a facial transplant surgeon at a prestigious New York hospital. When his friend and mentor, Tom Grabowski, dies under mysterious circumstances, Matthew uncovers his friend's secret: a new technique that allows perfect facial transplants. No incisions, no scars. Tom was able to accomplish this monumental feat with the help of Alice, a supercomputer robot with almost human abilities. While trying to find the people responsible for murdering Tom, Matthew realizes he is the prime suspect. He must flee for his life with the help of Dr. Sarah Larsson, a colleague and reluctant helper, who has a secret of her own, and Alice, who helps them make sense of a baffling series of seemingly unrelated events. The clues carry Matthew and Sarah around the world. They stumble onto a sinister plot of monumental proportions that leads Matthew all the way to the White House.

The Face Transplant is a powerful medical suspense thriller of the first order.

The novel was written by a surgeon who weaves politics, medicine, and espionage into a tightly paced, intelligent thriller.

## **The Face Transplant Details**

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Author : R. Arundel

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Medical, Science Fiction

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# From Reader Review The Face Transplant for online ebook

## Dianne says

Medical science has made huge leaps in necessary reconstructive surgery, but imagine if the time had come when total face transplants could become almost routine with the aid of computers, robots and miracle drugs that caused the tissues to heal almost immediately. For R. Arundel's **The Face Transplant** that time is now, and there are those who would use this medial gift for greed and the twisted machinations to devine world power and control. Someone has set Matthew, a top facial transplant surgeon, up to take the fall for murder and conspiracy. Just one slip of the scalpel and his world becomes a nightmare game of cat and mouse, where the cat is more like a stealthy cougar on the prowl. Is it a national government after him? A foreign cartel? A crazed group with powerful strings to pull? One false move and Matthew and those around him will be killed. Already they are dying one bullet at a time and no one knows who or why. Who can be trusted? The answer may shatter Matthew, and worse, get him killed. From start to finish, Matthew is a man on the run.

R. Arundel writes with strong, short strokes, as if playing a hard staccato with a pen. Abrupt lines, almost like dictation, the flow is rather choppy, as if to punctuate the stark world the characters have been created for. Dark mystery, dark intrigue and unlikely heroes on the run make this medical mystery part science fiction and part suspenseful reading that will keep you just one step behind the solutions until the very end. Love the hard prose, the jagged edges and the leap into the darker side of medical and scientific advances.

I received a review copy from AuthorBuzz in exchange for my honest review.

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## Cheryl says

Want to know when a book is going to be a good one and you will be on the ride of your life? When the story starts out with Dr. Matthew MacAulay and his staff held at gun point. They are told if their patient dies then they all die. Whoever the patient is must be a very important person for him to be receiving a face transplant. Matthew and his staff do get to live another day.

Before Matthew can fully comprehend what happened to him, he learns that his close friend and mentor has died. Matthew uncovers that his friend's death was not by natural causes. Also, his friend had found a way to do facial transplants where there was virtually no scarring. As if that person had been born with that face. You can imagine the type of people that would kill for this type of knowledge.

I liked this book. It was different from my normal routine of reading. I could not help but think of the movie,

Face Off starring Nicholas Cage and John Travolta. If they had this type of technology and could really adapt to the other one's personality better then it would have been even harder to have figured out which was which. This book would make a good movie. There was plenty of things happening in the book to keep it intriguing and moving at a good pace.

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### **Sherri Williamson says**

I was given a copy of this book by NetGalley for an honest review.

Mixing politics, politicians, and medicine, specifically facial transplanting, made for a very interesting story. There were a few times when I would yell out loud "Whoa!" or "Wait! What?" Then I would be scrolling back through pages furiously looking for what I needed to re-read to re-process things, and not realize my son was talking to me until he would touch my shoulder (and scaring me in the process!) That's one way I know I'm reading a good book, when I get so involved I don't hear someone talking to me. The ending was not what I thought it would be, definitely surprising to me.

And it makes you wonder, could this be happening now? Is this something that will be happening in our future? Is this something that could happen with our government?

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### **C. Stuchl says**

"I just killed the patient" --That is the start of this rollercoaster ride. Matthew MacAulay is a face transplant surgeon, one of the best. He is being forced, at gunpoint, to transplant a new face on an unknown man. Something goes wrong, the patient dies and he is forced to kill the gunman to save his team. He later learns that his mentor and friend died the same night. He discovers that it was murder and sets out to try and find out why and who. The more he searches the more trouble he gets into. With the help of a few friends he discovers a maniac plot that goes all the way to the top of the government.

"Face Transplant" has lots of twists and turns to keep you reading at a good pace. I liked the idea of a computerised, robotic, surgeon controlled by the real Dr. Of course there is a miracle drug that promotes instant healing to the transplanted face and does not leave any scars.

Matthew is framed for the murder of his OR nurse, Marcia and is now on the run from the cops, government and one step ahead of a killer. Several attempts are made on his life and the lives of his friends, he doesn't know who to trust anymore.

The real twist comes at the end. You will never see it coming.

This book was a well written and researched thriller of a murder mystery. I loved the story and the characters were so well written I felt I was there with them. I love a good mystery and this one of the best. Maybe this medical technology is not that far away. I hope they make a movie from this book. It is a winner.

Thank you Netgallery for this preview book.

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### **Dee says**

The Face Transplant R. Arundel

Dr. Matthew MacAulay is a Facial Transplant Surgeon at a prestigious New York hospital. Matthew, his nurse Marcia Lopez and Dr. Sarah Larsson are held at gun point, told to complete a transplant. Somehow he

nicked one of the blood vessels and the patient dies. Thinking on his feet he takes down the gunman and within moments a large van pulls up with a team of people. Matthew, Marcia and Sarah hide and watch as the team does a complete clean on the surgical unit. Still in shock they decide not to report this to the police and all head home due to the fact that the transplant team works hand in hand with the government. They knew that the team that had done the clean job was professionals. Who else but the government would have that kind of team available at a moments notice.

His friend and mentor, Tom Grabowski, dies under mysterious circumstances. Matthew is forced to investigate. He uncovers his friend's secret. A new technique that allows perfect facial transplants. No incisions, no scars. The surgeon is able to transplant one person's face to another with the perfect result. Tom was able to accomplish this monumental feat with the help of Alice, a supercomputer robot with almost human abilities. Part of the above is from the book description as it was so much better than what I could add.

What did I like? This book is a very fast paced and keeps you turning the pages as fast as you can. I was so intrigued at the details and remembered this was written by a surgeon. The realism was fantastic, the descriptions down to a tee. The last thing that I liked is working with NetGalley, they provided this book to me for an honest review and I really loved it.

What did I dislike? The only thing that I found was the realism was almost too much. I wish that this book was true! Just think of all the people that this technique could help. The men that are fighting for our world, all those soldiers that have been blown up and so many others, burn victims, mutilations and the list goes on. So what did I dislike? That is was not real!

What are you going to like? A fantastic book that will take you around the world to solve the mysteries that crop up. Plots that go all the way up to the White House, stumbling onto a sinister plot of monumental proportions, the real reason Tom was murdered. Fleeing for his life Matthew does not give up the fight to untangle the plots. The Face Transplant is a powerful medical suspense thriller of the first order. The plot weaves politics, medicine and espionage into a tightly paced, intelligent thriller. The totally unexpected conclusion will have you on the edge of your seat and you will never see it coming. I have to say that this was one of the most fascinating books that I have read in this genre. It was filled with so much that I had to shake my head and wonder how much of this could be true and is being kept from the public. Do we have this capability? I don't know and with every medical step forward there is always someone out there to try and make it even better. We can just pray that someday it will be true.

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## **Sally says**

Dr. Matthew MacAulay, is a face transplant surgeon at a prestigious hospital in New York. His friend and mentor, Dr. Tom Grabowski mysteriously dies so Matthew begins to investigate to see if he can find out why. He uncovers a new technique his friend was working on that would allow facial transplants from one person to another with no incisions, scars and quick healing. As he investigates Tom's death with his reluctant partner, Dr. Sarah Larsson, he becomes a prime target and is being framed for the murder of his OR nurse, Marsha. Alice, a supercomputer robot, who seems almost human at times, helps to make sense of all that is happening. Matthew feels somehow the government is involved, but can't prove it unless he can find the head person. This investigation will take him around the world and all the way to the White House.

This book was filled with mystery and intrigue right from the first page. The plot and subplots are intricately

woven. At first I thought maybe it was a bit over the top, but as the storyline unfolded and in our world of espionage, it seems completely possible. In fact it almost made me wonder if this type of thing is not already being implemented, which is more than a little scary.

Although I felt at times it waned a bit, there was enough interest to keep me reading and I was totally unprepared for the ending! It is well worth reading!!!

Disclosure: I was given a copy of this eBook by the publisher, CreateSpace, through NetGalley blogger program for review. I was not required to write a favorable review nor was I compensated for my review. The opinions in this review are my own.

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### **Kathleen Kelly says**

The Face Transplant is a story that could really happen now instead of in the future. With medical technology what it is now, there actually have been a few done with good outcomes, facial transplants are not inconceivable. The story starts out in an operating room where Dr. Matthew MacAulay is doing this very transplant on a man. Unfortunately the man dies and this is the start of Matthews problems. A good friend and fellow facial transplant surgeon dies. Matthew decides to investigate and when more people turn up dead, Matthew and a colleague, Dr. Sarah Larsson, go on the ride of their lives. There are people out there who want Matthew dead because they think he knows too much. Who are "they"? Can't tell you that but it is a plot that goes all the way up the chain of command in America. Matthew has the facial transplant done on him so he can investigate incognito, if you will. This investigation, with the help of other friends and colleagues, takes Matthew and Sarah around the globe to stop the person who has the power to destroy the world.

This book was a well written and well thought out suspenseful murder mystery. I enjoyed the story-line and the characters were so well written that I found myself eagerly turning the pages to see what happens next. I love a good mystery and this one is certainly one of those. It is also a story that will have the reader thinking about what could be done with this type of medical technology. I highly recommend it.

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### **Wendy says**

The Face Transplant is a suspenseful medical thriller filled with non-stop action and adventure. The story begins in an operating room where Dr. Mathew MacAulay, being held at gunpoint, is forced to perform a total facial transplant on a man. Unfortunately the patient dies and Mathew escapes the gunman. It is soon discovered that a fellow facial transplant surgeon is found dead and along with a colleague, Dr. Sarah Larsson, Mathew decides to investigate. They quickly become targets and narrowly escape death a few times. They stumble onto an extremely sinister plot which leads them all the way to the White House with a dramatic conclusion.

A chilling and interesting read which I thoroughly enjoyed.

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### **Rebekah Crain says**

This book had issues from page one. Despite the unique storyline that first appealed to me, the writing was horrible. I was torn as to whether or not to keep reading or call it quits at about 20% in. I wanted to see how

the story itself developed though, and I hoped for the writing to get better. It did not. The concept itself was flawed in many ways also, but it was the writing that so thoroughly needed help. I give the 1 star rating only because the concept and story were intriguing, but to earn a full five or even four stars would require a massive reworking of the writing and partial concept. Sorry guys.

Thanks to NetGalley for the review copy.

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### **Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

I should have taken a hint with the long winded paragraph that makes up the synopsis of this book that it might transfer onto the pages (the long paragraphs) and it did. Update: it's now September 2015 and the huge long winded synopsis still is in place. I rest my case.

I could not embrace or like this book at all. It's confusing from the start, things are happening but there is no explanation for the reader to be able to go along with it and process it all. There is huge amounts of info dumping that just totally spoils the fact that this is meant to be a fiction book, the long layers of text just changes the pace and readability of this whole book.

**It's got too much happening without context and it's way too jumbled, this book needs a whole lot of editing and the story needs to be pulled out of the mess of words. It needs to be entertaining. I noted that other readers have felt much the same as me.**

I wanted to love this book, the plot sounded great, face transplants, government conspiracies and secrets, I thought it would be a real winner, sadly it just needs too much work done. A book should not read like a technical handbook, it needs a plot, well developed characters, a direction and importantly the reader needs to be able to engage with it.

*I received a copy of this book thanks to the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Monnie says**

An intriguing concept and I thank the publisher for the opportunity to read this book at no cost, but I simply couldn't finish it. The present-tense style was distracting, the dialog was trite and contextural and grammatical errors screamed for better editing. Sorry.

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### **Julie says**

Check out my other reviews at Little Miss Bookmark!

What in the hell was that?!? I did NOT want to start my new year off like this but (Whoomp!) there it is. Haha ... that song jumped into my mind when I wrote "there it is" ... back on track ... let me just say this ... there was no "shocka locka" going on while reading this. I don't know what that means but it was part of the song that now won't get out of my head and if there were such a thing as shocka locka, I bet this book

wouldn't have it.

When I first read the blurb on The Face Transplant, I should have known. I should have known that it was going to just really stink because of how much information was put into the summary!! Why in the world would you put all of the important parts of the book on the back?!? Why not leave something for a surprise? The only thing surprising about this novel is the fact that it didn't come with a refund. I know that sounds harsh but here's the deal ... as a reader, I want to be entertained. If I wanted to be bored out of my mind, I would read the dictionary. Now I do believe that I have an ARC version of this book and maybe a lot was changed before the final product was put out onto the market but the version I read was not good. At all. Oooh ... and I take offense to the phrase "crescendos page by page". Crescendo means increase. Increase means to become more. This most certainly did NOT crescendo.

I cracked this book open (metaphorically, since I read it on my Kindle) and the first thing that I read was this introduction or something titled The Beautiful Life. It felt like I was being preached at ... I don't have any clue what this had to do with the damn story. Then again, I will be honest ... I tried to finish this book and I just couldn't. I would rather try and scoop my eyeballs out with a rusty spoon and dirty bald eagle talons than read any more than my 109 pages that I tortured myself with. I hate leaving a book unfinished but in order to preserve my sanity, I had to chunk this one.

After the whole "Beautiful Life" debacle, I wanted to just get into the story. Thankfully, I found that the main character was boring as hell and not in a sexy/mildly-interesting way. He was boring. There's this one part at the very beginning when he is talking about maybe contracting three deadly diseases while he was operating on someone and you know what his response was? Was it freaking the hell out like any normal person? Or being upset? Or crying or wondering what the rest of his life might be like if he gets to live for much longer?!? No it was "WHAT A PITY". No sane person is going to have that kind of reaction if they were in that type of situation. It just won't happen.

The writing was unrealistic, stiff and extremely stilted. I could have been reading a textbook of some kind rather than this "thriller" for all the emotion that was in it. I don't think I'll be picking something up by this author ever again. Ever. Well, Whoomp, there it is.

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### **\*Avonna says**

The Face Transplant by R. Arundel is this author's first book and is advertised as medical thriller. The concept is very intriguing and the ramifications can be easily subverted, so there is a lot to work with for plot and suspense. Unfortunately, I felt there was too much info and not enough character building. I felt the characters were very two dimensional and I really didn't fall into their heads or the story.

The reading of this ebook was extremely difficult. There was something wrong with the formatting and you could not always tell who was speaking or performing. The dialogue felt off and not really smooth or realistic. With professional editing a lot of these problems can hopefully be solved. As is, I cannot recommend this read.

Thanks to R. Arundel, Author Buzz and Net Galley for a free copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review.



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## **Kathryn Svendsen says**

Dr. Matthew MacAulay and his surgical team are held at gunpoint and forced to do a facial transplant of an unknown patient. Unfortunately the transplant is unsuccessful when Matthew makes an error and accidentally kills the patient by cutting an artery. Then when a colleague at another facial transplant center dies, Matthew believes that he was murdered. What he finds is a plot to bigger than he can imagine and a plot to frame him.

The Face Transplant is a suspenseful medical thriller filled with non-stop action and world-wide adventure. From California to Washington to China and the Himalayan mountains, Matthew and his assistant Sarah team together dodging both the mastermind behind the plot and the authorities who are looking for him in the murders of several people.

Undergoing a face transplant himself to avoid detection, adds to the suspense as there are certain medical restrictions that Matthew must adhere to. While having a different face may keep him safe because he's not recognized, keeping to the medical restrictions isn't easy when you're on the run.

I liked the character development in this novel. Matthew, Sarah and the others that helped him were obviously good friends to keep putting themselves in harms way in order to assist him. It showed their good character and their willingness to put others before themselves.

There are many plot twists in this story that will set your head to spinning and the final big one was the winner for me. I won't tell you what it was because that would spoil it but definitely took me by surprise. I have more I'd like to say, but I can't, you'll have to read it for yourself.

The Face Transplant was a fascinating medical suspense novel that I can happily suggest to fans of this genre. I gave this novel a healthy 4 stars out of 5.

Thank you to the author for providing a copy of the book in exchange for a fair and honest review. A positive opinion was not required. All thoughts are my own.

This review is published on my blog Shelf Full of Books <http://kathrynsshelffullofbooks.blogspot...>

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